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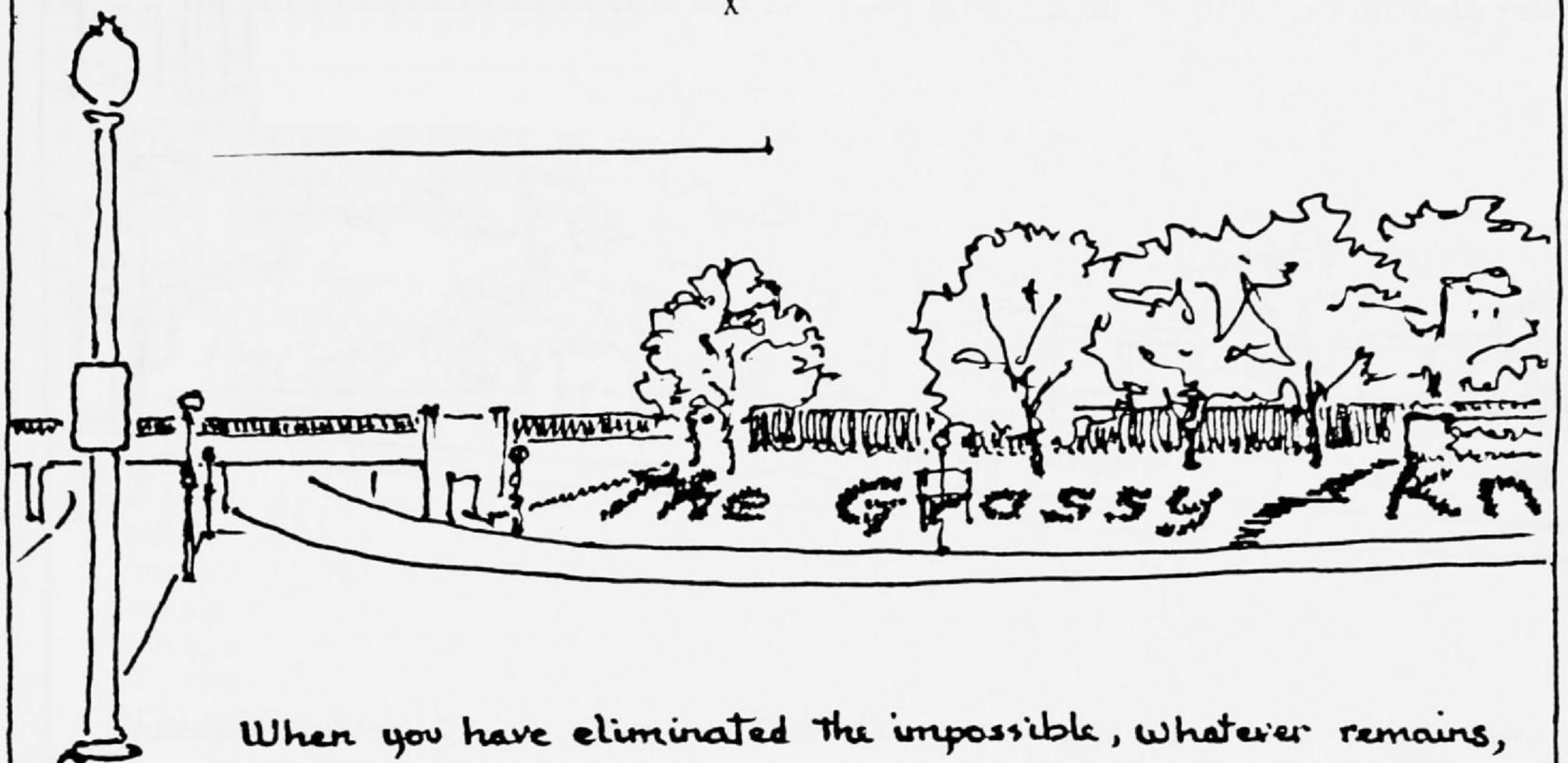


When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains,

WE HAVE MET THE EVIL EMPIRE
ENTRE NOUS
AND THEY IS US (thankyou Pogo)

for X/86

Vol 10
5

2 : Neil & I : ....review.....

3 : ..... : ....Seymour Hersh's.....

4 : ..... : ....."the Target.....

5 : ..... : ....Is Destroyed".....

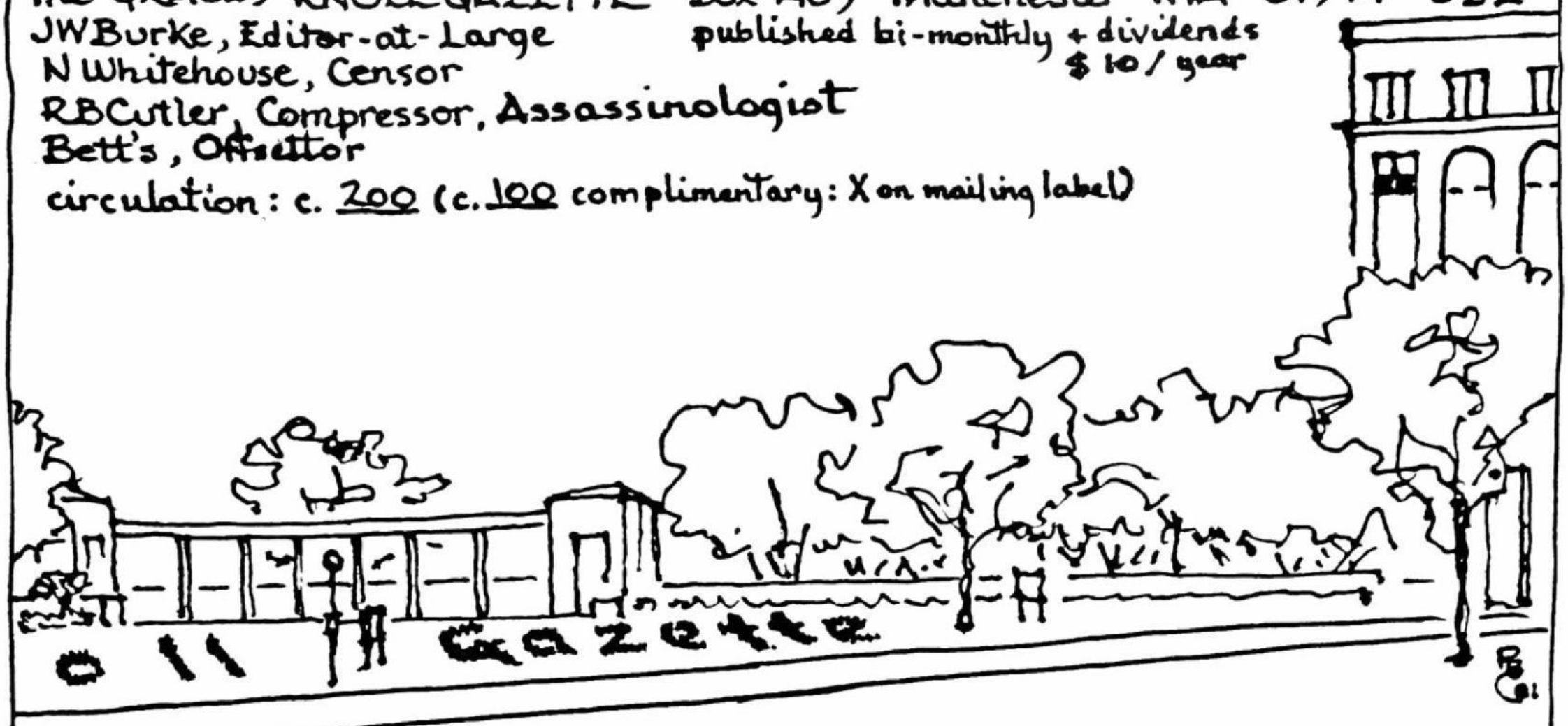
6 : ..... : ....What Really Happened.....

7 : ..... : ....to Flight 007.....

8 : ....B..... : ....to contemplate the truth.....

GKG·1

The GRASSY KNOLL GAZETTE box 1465 Manchester MA 01944 USA
JW Burke, Editor-at-Large
N Whitehouse, Censor
RB Cutler, Compressor, Assassinologist
Bett's, Offsettor
published bi-monthly + dividends
$ 10 / year
circulation: c. 200 (c. 100 complimentary: X on mailing label)



no matter how improbable, must be the Truth. (Sherlock Holmes)

Neil & I, ruminating in the Ivory Tower at 36½ Union St, found Seymour Hersh's "the Target Is Destroyed" (Random House, N.Y, 1986) to be as fascinating as expected. Researched with help from nameless members of the intelligence community, it's a readable tale of complex, technical facts and opinions as to why and how The White House rushed into media victory despite Air Force Intelligence analysis that the Russian pilot thought he was shooting down a spy-plane intruder not a civilian airliner.

Hersh's story is partly correct.

The fighter-pilot did think he was shooting at a military spy-plane. However, the target he destroyed was a planted, false target, a red-herring. It was neither the RC-135 spy-plane, which flew away westward at 32,000 ft. nor was it the B-747 airliner, KA 007, which exploded on course over the Pacific at 35,000 ft. The author did not recognize those truths.

book review

The excitement of being admitted to the outer sanctorum of the workings of military intelligence-gathering, decoding, analysis and eventual delivery to the White House is more than the reader could hope for. It is the main thrust of "Target" and there is plenty of detail exposing the benefits and inadequacies of the pseudo-Bondian operations. Hersh's exposure of how the script was ignored by the top brass is another feather in his already plumed hat.

When presented with an opportunity to orchestrate an anti-Communist media blast, the top-level goof of over-reaching paints a sorry picture of what happens inside 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

The best of Hersh is his placing the incident in what we feel is the proper historical perspective.

> ....the destruction of the airliner and its immediate aftermath reaffirmed the Soviet Union's and the United States' essential distrust of each other and ended any hope of an immediate solution to the expanding nuclear arms race. Late November 1983 saw the failure of the European peace campaign as the West German parliament voted to accept 108 medium-range Pershing II missiles for deployment.... (p 244) .... Reagan continued to be avidly supported by Americans for his handling of the shootdown and went on to an overwhelming victory over Walter Mondale in 1984 .... (p 247)

Seen through GKG's jaundiced eyes, this reads as a January 1981 list of objectives on which KA 007 stamped "mission accomplished".

> ....There were many inside the Reagan administration and in sensitive positions in allied governments who soon discovered that misunderstood and then suppressed communications intelligence had been invoked to expand the crisis, but only one spoke out -- Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada .... Canada, however, is a full partner with the National Security Agency in the collection and sharing of allied communications intelligence, and within the week of the shootdown the Canadian intelligence community began circulating its assessment .... concluding that the Soviets had made a tragic mistake ... .. Trudeau said, "I do not believe that the people in the Kremlin deliberately murdered or killed some two hundred or three hundred passengers in the Korean airliner. I do not believe that. I believe it was a tragic mistake, an accident, an accident of war." .... The Americans knew it was an accident .... and the Soviets knew that the plane was not sent by the Americans. The two superpowers were talking past each other. .... The event that tipped the scale was KAL."..... (pp 244-6)

Monsieur Trudeau understand governance and, despite the media's "soft on communism" mud believes the Russian leaders are as incapable of this inhumanity as he is.

continued

GKG·3·X·86

book review

The author's other man who thought the Russians might be subject to human failings was Major General Jim Pfautz, Director of Air Force Intelligence.

> ....General Pfautz was not contacted until sometime after 11:00 PM [Wednesday, 31 Aug 83] .... By then Misawa had reported ... the comment of the Soviet fighter pilot...."The target is destroyed". Pfautz recalled his reaction: "Get your troops out. If what I'm hearing is true we've got a potential war .... This is an air incident and I cannot wait for anybody else to get into this....." He ordered his duty officers to "pull out all the stops" and start calling in staff experts on Soviet policy and the Air Defense Force. Pfautz's team all understood without being explicitly told that the mission was to get the best story as fast as possible.... (pp 82-3)

Major Daniel E Miller, a Soviet Air Defense Force analyst .... his instinctive guess was that the Soviet radar operators had confused the two aircraft and concluded that the plane that flew into their airspace was an American intelligence craft .... one crucial fact stood out ....the American intelligence system had not developed any specific evidence showing that the Soviets had knowingly shot down an airliner .... (pp 83-4)

By 7:00 AM .... his staff had prepared a detailed briefing book, complete with more than thirty color slides showing, among other things, the probable flight path of the Korean airliner marked in blue and that of the Cobra Ball [RC-135] in red. Some slides also juxtaposed the various messages that were sent by the crew of Flight 007 as well as by the Soviet radar technicians with progress of the aircraft along their flight paths.... There was some nervousness among junior staff members. They suspected that what they believed took place was not going to be what many senior officers in the Pentagon wanted to hear. Air Force Intelligence was describing a tragic mistake over Sakhalin -- not wanton murder .... [Pfautz said] ..."What is the likelihood that the Soviets would deliberately shoot down a civilian plane without any forces on alert, any forces keyed? .... it tells you they screwed up -- they panicked. The Soviets are just like we are, with junior officers on duty in places like Kamchatka and Sakhalin, working on edge, scared to death .... A fact is a fact .... we're not apologizing for the Soviets".... (pp 85-6)

All this went for naught at 10:45 AM when Secretary Shultz blew it and a lot of other conservative thinking out of the water on TV.

Hersh's writing about the Russians as human beings relative to this emotional affair is a mark of his individual courage. (continued)

GKG-4·X·86

book review

"The target is destroyed" is one statement on what GKG and EXPLO 007 readers know as the Reagan Administration Tapes, RATs. These were first used publicly by Secretary Shultz, then by Reagan in his briefing of Congressional leaders and finally by Ambassador Kirkpatrick as she held the UN Security Council spellbound lambasting the Russians with their own fighter-pilot chatter. The question of what became of the other half of the conversation, the ground-controllers' part, and more importantly, the tapes' chain of evidence, was lost in the wave of anti-Communist breast-beating that swept the world.

"The Target Is Destroyed", which owes its existence to RATs, is helpful in the matter of the chain of evidence of the hard evidence.

Envision the courtroom where Defense is using RATs to establish that KA 007 was the target and therefore the Russians are culpable. Questioning admission of RATs, Prosecution counsel for the families suing for recompense, quotes from Hersh's book:

60: ...The Japanese operation at Wakkanai works smoothly...essential intelligence ... relayed ...to Misawa ... In crises ...the Japanese become extremely sensitive ... and move significant intelligence through their own chain of command before forwarding to Misawa ....
It was a different story behing the locked doors of Project CLEF .... one [operator] heard it all .... suddenly the Amer-
61: ican heard a SU-15 pilot shout the word "Zaputska" -- a Russian expression in the past tense for firing a missile ... as soon as the Russian operation was over, the technician gathered his colleagues, stopped the tape recording, played it over and over for confirmation and finally began to hand-copy the pilot's comments. It was then, presumably, that the phrase "The target is destroyed" also was heard.... none of the military men at Project CLEF had any idea what the SU-15 had shot at ... [with no secure line to Misawa] what they had overheard was [made] over an open and unsecured line to Misawa.... The Japanese facility there [Wakkanai] undoubtedly had monitored [these].... pilot-to-ground-controller communications. Those tapes perhaps would solve the riddle of what was going on over Sakhalin .... an airplane would be dispatched to Wakkanai to pick up the tape recordings and CLEF's preliminary transcript for further analysis by the language experts at Misawa.....
68: ....with it came the tape recordings that provided the first hard evidence. It took the language experts at Misawa a good
69: hour to play the tapes and reconfirm that the Soviets had indeed fired a missile ....
72: A C-141 aircraft was ordered to pick up the Project CLEF and Japanese tapes at Misawa and bring them to Ft Meade for further analysis .... Misawa found.... that the original Japanese tape recordings were of much higher quality and much clearer than those from CLEF .... CLEF's tape was played again and again as the preliminary transcript with its lapses and inacc-
73: uracies emerged ....

(continued)

GKG·5·X·86

book review

75: One example of misunderstanding .... revolved around the phrase, "The target is destroyed"." ....widely depicted as a cry of triumph --.... [it] became a centerpiece in the initial press and television reporting on the shootdown of Flight 007 [and of this book] Signals intelligence experts read much less into the phrase .... They had overheard it for more than thirty years while monitoring Soviet training exercises. To a communications expert "The target is destroyed" means that an enemy interception -- whether real or simulated -- has been brought to a successful end.... one ...officer explained "in this case, the pilot saw something -- an explosion, but it was not a confirmed kill."....
"The target is destroyed" is based on faulty and incomplete knowledge -- and simply may not be correct....

Your Honor, the Prosecution views RATs as inadmissible. We now intend to show the Court how Flight 007 happens to be over Sakhalin Island so it can conveniently become the target that was destroyed. Once again, Mr Hersh's book is illuminating. The title sets the tone and the first sentence of the Introduction, p xi, establishes the melody.
.... the shootdown of Flight 007....

22: .... when an off-course Korean airliner blundered into Soviet
27: airspace .... as it overflew the Bethel area .... the airplane was then twelve miles off course -- a not-alarming deviation for radar observers. Flight 007 never arrived at R-20, its authorized flightpath, but instead flew increasingly to the north of R-20,
28: toward the Soviet Union....the off-course airliner was headed directly toward Kamchatka ....it overflew Kamchatka .... now more than 200 miles off course and constantly moving away from R-20 ....MiG-23 and SU-15 interceptors were ordered into the air
29: as Flight 007 neared Sakhalin Island ....Five hours and twenty-six minutes after takeoff from Anchorage, a 3:26 AM Tokyo time, with Flight 007 only a minute or two from the Sea of Japan, the pilot of the SU-15 was ordered to destroy the aircraft. He fired two missiles ... and reported to ground control "The target is destroyed".... When hit, the airliner was 365 nautical miles off course, to the north and west of its intended location on R-20....

Nothing but the author's words place KA 007 on this northward-drifting course. Peculiarly, he also writes:

28: Seven minutes before the end, the co-pilot of Flight 007 requested permission to climb to 35,000 feet ....there was still no sign that the crew realized how far off course they were; nor was there any evidence that they realized that their airliner was being tracked by Soviet military planes ....

Your Honor, hypotheses abound in these pages trying to explain how KA 007 was off course .... none of them ring as true as the co-pilot's request for and reporting arrival at 35,000 in the very crux of "the target is destroyed" routine. KA 007 was on an ATC flight on R-20. We demand the Defense prove KA 007 was over Sakhalin. Thank you.

(continued)

wrap-up

Seymour Hersh was asked in a Boston Globe interview (IX/15/86) if he ever doubts himself:

> "That's funny .... Bryant Gumbel aksed me if I was satisfied with what I've done .... I do wonder how the (Korean Airline) pilot could have screwed it up so badly ...."

That's funny. It's the pilot, among others, who wonders how the author, looking directly at the truth, could have screwed it up so badly.

This fits with doubts voiced in a letter to the NYTimes (VIII/31/86) by families of some of the victims of the "shootdown".

> .... with no bodies recovered .... How did the plane end up in Soviet airspace? Did it stray there unintentionally? If so, why was its pilot not guided back on course? .... Why did the pilot of KAL 015, who flew parrallel to 007 for much of its flight, and who relayed false reports for the doomed plane, suddenly become unavailable just before he was to be questioned under oath by attorneys for the bereaved families? Why were an author and publisher for a book about the disaster threatened with prosecution by the Director of Central Intelligence? ....

Neither bodies, baggage nor wreckage were recovered because the search took place in the Sea of Japan and KA 007 settled into the Pacific Ocean's Kuril Trench directly below course R-20.

The plane did not stray intentionally or unintentionally into Soviet airspace. ATC controllers never had to guide it back on course because it was never off its filed flightplan course R-20.

KA 015's pilot did not relay false positions for 007. His reluctance to testify stems from his position at 1827 GMT VIII/31/83. Five minutes before he reported passing NOKKA (ICAO, G-12) he was 2,000 feet above and a little behind KA 007 when it exploded in mid-air. Lift the press ban on Air Force personnel and sworn testimony from the pilot of the RC-135 intruder plane would sell a few newspapers.

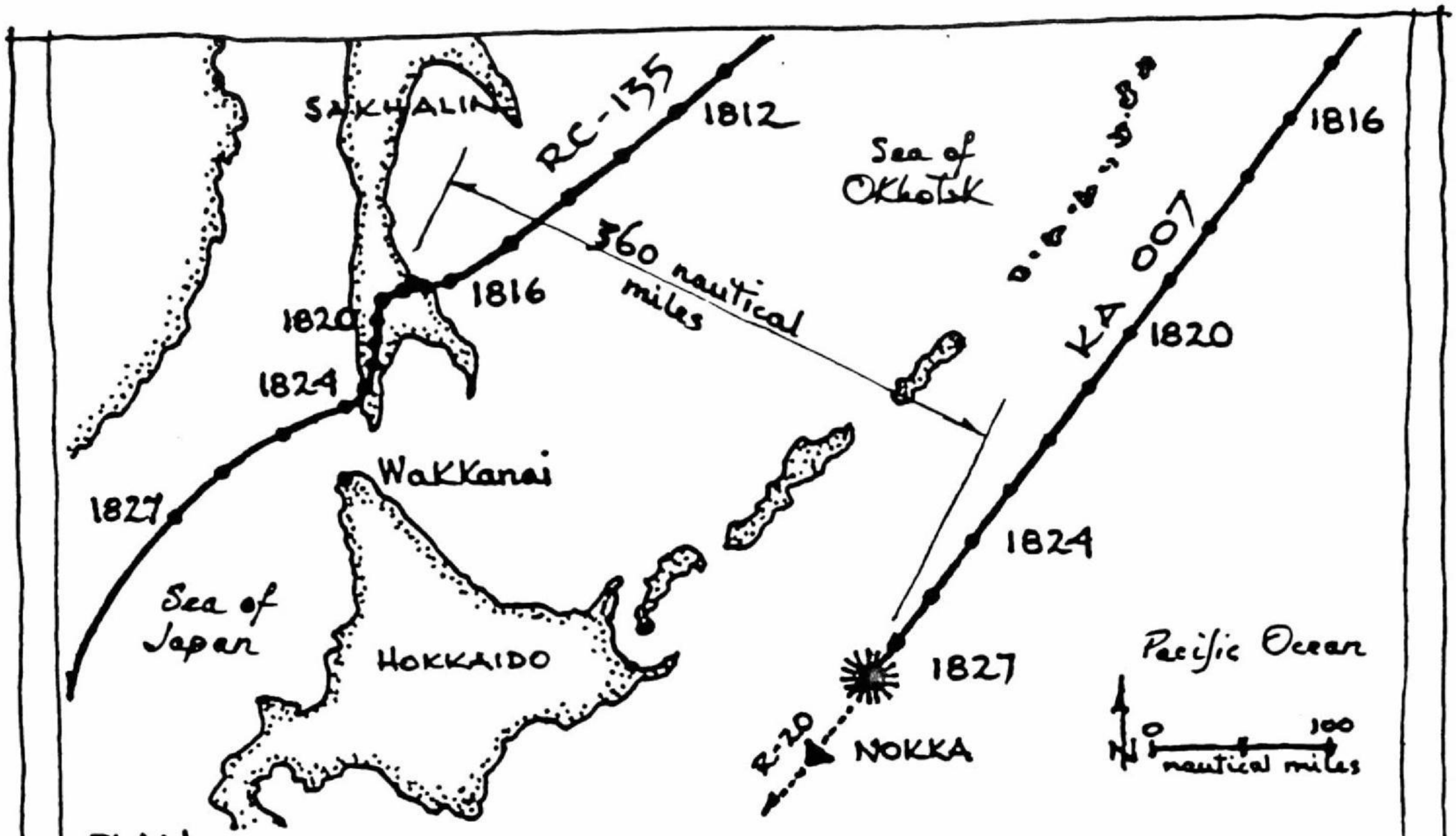
Books that are CIA-threatened slip into that enviable PR position of plays "Banned in Boston".

None of this is new; it has been going on since at least 1 May 1960. Sabotaging aircraft and assassinating Presidents is the Professional War Machine's way of side-tracking Peace in this neighborhood we all call Earth. Coverup is the media's bag.

On the next page we have added a few dots to the ELEVATION sketch to give you a better perception of the 360 nautical miles between KA 007 over the Pacific, in the foreground, and the RC-135 in the Background over the Sea of Japan. Contemplate this skecth for a full minute; it is the truth of "what really happened to Flight 007". (how many have used those words !!)

EXPLO 007 is still available @ $10 ppd

CKG·7·X·86



early morning mists and clouds have been added to assist in visualizing the true relative positions of the two planes - squinting helps a little and the RC-135 recedes 360 miles.....

GKG·8·X·86